1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

young are comely, of a buxom type, and, like the men, with highly-developed calves, the latter always being considered a beauty. The children are frequently remarkably pretty. Khasis carry very heavy burdens, it being the custom for the cooly of the country to carry a maund, or 82 lbs. weight, or even more occasionally, on his back, the load being fixed by means of a cane band which is worn across the forehead; women carry almost as heavy loads as the men. The coolies, both male and female, commonly do the journey between Cherrapunji and Shillong, or between Shillong and Jowai, in one day, carrying the heavy loads above mentioned. Each of the above journeys is some thirty miles. They carry their great loads of rice and salt from Therria to Cherrapunji, an ascent of about 4,000 feet in some three to four miles, in the day. The Khasis are probably the best porters in the north of India, and have frequently been requisitioned for transport purposes on military expeditions.

The people are cheerful in disposition, and are light-hearted by nature, and, unlike the plains people, seem to thoroughly appreciate a joke. It is pleasant to hear on the road down to Theriaghat from Cherrapunji, in the early morning the whole hillside resounding with the scraps of song and peals of laughter of the coolies, as they run nimbly down the short cuts on their way to market. The women are specially cheerful, and pass the time of day and bandy jokes with passers-by with quite an absence of reserve. The Khasis are certainly more industrious than the Assamese, are generally good-tempered, but are occasionally prone to sudden outbursts of anger, accompanied by violence. They are fond of music, and rapidly learn the hymn tunes which are taught them by the Welsh missionaries. Khasis are devoted to their offspring, and the women make excellent nurses for European children, frequently becoming much attached to their little charges. The people, like the Japanese, are fond of nature. A Khasi loves a day out in the woods, where he thoroughly enjoys himself. If he does not go out shooting or fishing, he is content to sit still and contemplate nature. He has a separate name for each of the commoner birds and flowers. He also has names for many butterflies and moths. These are traits which are not found usually in the people of India.

1:Gurdon E-4, 5 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

SECTION II.

OCCUPATION.

24/ 463 [162] THE greater proportion of the population subsists by cultivation. Cultivation of rice may be divided under two headings, high land or dry cultivation and low land or wet cultivation. The total number of persons who subsist by agriculture generally in the hills, is given in the last Census Report as 154,907, but the term agriculture includes the cultivation of the potato, the orange, betel-nut and *pán*. A full description of the different forms of agriculture will be given under the 463 heading "Agriculture." A considerable number of Khasis earn 482 their livelihood as porters, carrying potatoes to the markets on 439 the Sylhet side of the district, from whence the crop is conveyed by means of country boats to the different places of call of river-steamers in the Surma Valley, the steamers carrying the potatoes to Calcutta. Potatoes are also largely carried to Shillong by porters, where the tuber is readily bought by Marwari merchants, who load it in carts to be conveyed by road to Gauhati, from which station it is again shipped to 482 Calcutta and Upper Assam. Many persons are also employed in 463 carrying rice up the hill from Theria to Cherrapunji, Shillong, [466] and on to other places. Salt is also carried by porters by this route. Many Khasis, both male and female, live by daily labour in this way, earning as much as eight annas, and [462] six annas a day, respectively. The Census Report of 1901 shows some 14,000 "general labourers" in the district, the greater number of whom are porters and coolies, both male [957] and female, employed on road work and on building. In Shillong the Government Offices and the printing press give employment to a certain number of Khasis. There is also a fair demand for Khasi domestic servants, both among the Europeans and the Bengali and Assamese clerks who are employed at the headquarters of the Administration.

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headquarters of the Administration. The manufacture of country spirit gives employment to a considerable number of persons, most of whom are females. At a recent census of the country stills in the district, undertaken by the district officials, the number of stills has been found to be 1,530. There must be at least one person employed at each still, so that the number of distillers is probably not less than 2,000, possibly more. The spirit is distilled both for home consumption and for purposes of sale, in some villages almost entirely for sale. In the Jaintia Hills stock-breeding and dealing in cattle provides occupation for 1,295 people, according to the last census. The cattle are reared in the Jaintia Hills and are driven down to the plains when they reach the age of maturity, where they find a ready market amongst the Sylhetis. Cattle are also driven into Shillong for sale from the Jaintia Hills. Another place for rearing cattle is the Siemship of Nongkhlaw, where there is good pasturage in the neighbourhood of Mairang. These cattle are either sold in Shillong or find their way to the Kamrup district by the old Nongkhlaw road. Cattle-breeding is an industry which is capable of expansion in these hills. There are a few carpenters to be found in Shillong and its neighbourhood. The Khasis are said by Col. Waddell to be unacquainted with the art of weaving; but the fact that a considerable weaving industry exists amongst the Khyrwang villages of the Syntengs, and at Mynso and Suhtnga, has been overlooked by him. The Khyrwangs weave a special pattern of cotton and silk cloth, striped red and white. In Mynso and Suhtnga similar cloths are woven, also the sleeveless coat. In former days this industry is said to have been considerable, but it has been displaced to a large extent of late years by Manchester piece goods. The number of weavers returned at the last census in the district was 533. The Khasis and Mikirs of the low country, or Bhois as they are called, weave cotton cloths which they dye with the leaves of a plant called *u noli*. This is perhaps the wild indigo, or *ram*, of the Shan settlers in the Assam Valley. The weavers are almost always females. An important means of subsistence is road and building work; a considerable number of coolies, both male and female, are employed under Government, practically throughout the year, in

1:Gurdon E-4,3 (no date) 1907 AR7 Khasi AR7

this manner, the males earning on an average 8 annas and the females 6 annas a day. Col. Bivar writes that in 1875 the wages for ordinary male labourers were 4 to 8 annas a day, and for females 2½ to 4 annas, so that the wages rates have almost doubled in the last thirty years. Contractors, however, often manage to obtain daily labour at lower rates than those paid by Government. Stonemasons and skilled labourers are able to get higher rates. It is easier to obtain coolies in the Khasi than in the Jaintia Hills, where a large proportion of the population is employed in cultivation. The Khasis are excellent labourers, and cheerful and willing, but they at once resent bad treatment, and are then intractable and hard to manage. Khasis are averse to working in the plains in the hot-weather months.

APICULTURE.

I am indebted to Mr. Rita for the following remarks on apiculture in the Khasi and Jaintia Hills.

There are two kinds of indigenous bees in the Khasi Hills, one domesticated, called *u ngap* (*apis Indica*), and the other *u lyuai*, which is never domesticated, and is very pugnacious; its hives are difficult of access, being always located in very high cliffs. A few hives of a third class of bee are now-a-days to be found in and around the station of Shillong, i.e. the Italian. This bee was imported into the hills by Messrs. Dobbie and Rita, and the species became propagated in the following manner. The bees had been just established in a hive, where they had constructed a brood comb, when the hive was robbed by some Khasis for the sake of the *larvæ* it contained, which they wished to consume as food; but the queen bee escaped and established other colonies, one of which was afterwards captured by Mr. Rita, the others establishing themselves at places in the neighbourhood. The hive used by the Khasis is of a very primitive description. It is usually a hollow piece of wood, about 2½ to 3 ft. in length and 10 or 12 in. in diameter. A small door is placed at each end of the log, one for the bees to go in and out, and the other for the removal of the honey when wanted. The honey-combs are broken and the honey is

portable water supply. Villages are about two to five miles apart, and have no boundary markers. In the past, villages contained nonpublic buildings and grounds: the home of the village priest (also the home of a chief if he resided in that village), the village marketplace, and tree groves, cremation grounds, or other gravesite spots that were believed to be inhabited by supernatural beings. Villages today may have also one or more Christian churches, government social welfare buildings, and schools. Formerly, villages were entered through a guarded gateway; this is no longer the case, and paths lead into villages from all directions. Often several villages are marketed into one large unit, named and also described as a "village." These were once defense units, but were so unobtrusive otherwise that institutionalized rivalry obtained among the component villages. Now, they have been integrated through the agency of all-village public services, especially schools. **Housing.** The traditional Khasi house is entered through a door at the rounded end of a U-shaped ground plan, and is about 20 feet at widest extent. It is about 30 feet deep, and is elliptical or hogback in profile. Its walls are of stone blocks cemented with mud. The roof of grass thatch, supported by a bamboo frame, overhangs the walls on three outside down to about three feet above the ground. The house is divided into two parts: the front one-third is on the ground level, floored either with stone blocks or tamped earth, and is used for storage of occupational instruments and as a shelter for poultry. The rear two-thirds is raised four feet on piles of stone blocks to a platform of planks, and is partitioned into six rooms, comprising a kitchen, areas for storage of food and water, and sleeping quarters. Furniture is minimal, and the house is totally undecorated. There are no windows, and no smoke vents. A house generally has a companion shed, walled of wood and grass matting and thatched with grass. This serves as a pigsty, but it may be partitioned also to house cows, and it may have a loft for fuel storage. Compounds often contain garden plots, and are fenced around with stone or bamboo and mud. Nowadays, the traditional house has given way to Western-style bungalows of wood and tin, especially in and around Shillong. (Cf. Mukherjee et al. 1961.)

ECONOMY. The Khasi economy is a market economy based on agriculture, and most Khasis are primary producers, sellers, middlemen, and/or providers of services in connection with markets. Khasis are often multioccupational: they produce goods for partial subsistence, and also play some part in trade. **Agriculture.** On the Shillong plateau, the major field crops are potatoes, maize, millets, and dry rice, still produced mostly through swidden farming, with a two- to three-year period of fallow, but increasingly through continuous use of a single field with the aid of ma-

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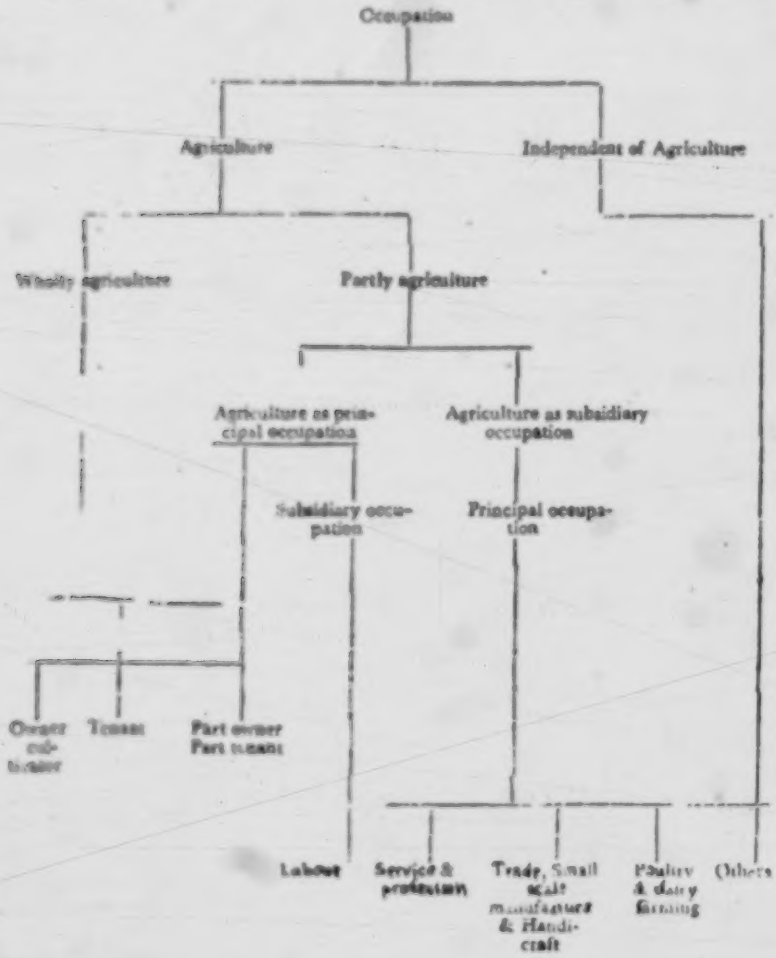
by employers who comprise over 22 per cent, 13 per cent and 9 per cent respectively. It may be noted that the large number of families who engaged agricultural labourers on daily basis as and when necessary were not termed as 'employers'.

Occupation

3.8: In the following tables attempt has been made to depict the occupational distribution of the population.

As agriculture is the principal occupation of the majority of the villagers the following schemes of classification of occupation, has been adopted—



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463 Families have been classified into three main classes, *viz.* :-

(1) Wholly agricultural

(2) Partly agricultural

(*a*) Agriculture as principal occupation

(*b*) Agriculture as subsidiary occupation.

(3) Independent of Agriculture.

5.9: The following table shows the distribution of families by occupational type in the three village groups :—

TABLE C·8

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463 **Occupational distribution of families in different village groups**

Occupational type	Border area	P. C. to total no. of families (house hold)	Project area	P. C. to total no. of families	General area	P.C. to total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Wholly agricultural	511	50·80	394	60·90	128	69·57
2. Partly agricultural—						
(*a*) agriculture as principal occupation.	168	16·70	95	14·68	37	20·11
(*b*) agriculture as subsidiary occupation.	183	18·19	108	16·69	17	9·24
3. Independent of agriculture.	144	14·31	50	7·73	2	1·08
	1006	100·00	647	100·00	184	100·00

It will be seen that wholly agricultural families, in Border area, Project area and General area are 51, 61 and 70 p. c. respectively of the total families. Classifying the wholly agricultural families and families pursuing agriculture as principal occupation, as predominantly agricultural families—the proportion of such families for Border area, Project area and General area stand at 68 p. c. 76 p.c. and 90 p.c. respectively. Thus it is clear that in the Border area the proportion of predominantly agricultural families is the lowest. The reason for this can be safely ascribed to the set-back received due to closure of markets after partition. A close study of tables C·10 and C.11 below and table C.11.1 at the appendix will bear testimony to the fact that in Border area there is evidence of a shift of occupation from agriculture to non-agricultural enterprise especially labour (non-agricultural).

Predominantly agricultural families have been classified into five groups— Non-cultivating owner, owner cultivator, tenants, part-owner and part-tenants and landless agricultural labourers. The number of families and the proportion of each of these groups in the three areas are as follows—

Apart from private lands, Raj lands possessed by a family and land possessed through settlement by District Council have been considered as 'land owned' for the purpose of this survey. Tenants usually take in rent from land-owners only those lands which are possessed by the later as private land or through settlement through District Council. A perusal of table C 9 given above will show that proportion of tenants are higher in Jowai subdivision which is due to the existence in this subdivision of some big landholders who are known as zamindars. Majority of the families shown against 'non-cultivating owner' are in fact agricultural labour families who also possess some land but due to some reason or other left it uncultivated. Among owner cultivators, tenants and part-owner and part-tenant families also there are some whose major income is derived from agricultural labour. Consideration of these two facts along with the number of landless agricultural families goes to show that the proportion of agricultural labourers in the district is rather high.

TABLE C 1·0

Occupational distribution of families whose principal occupation is other than agriculture

principal occupation	No. of families					
	Border area		Project area		General area	
	Total	P.C. to total	Total	P.C. to total	Total	P.C. to total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Non-agricultural labour.	188	57·49	70	44·30	6	31·58
2. Service, profession, etc.	34	10·40	39	24·68	3	15·79
3. Trader.	65	19·88	21	13·29	4	21,05
4. Small scale manufacture & handicraft.	23	7·03	19	12·03	1	2·56
5. Poultry & dairy farming.	7	2·14	..	..	5	26·32
6. Others	10	3·06	9	5·70	...	...
Total ..	327	100·00	158	100·00	19	100·00

463 464 [178] A perusal of the table above will show that proportion of families following non-agricultural labour as principal occupation is highest in Border areas. Majority of these families were formerly engaged in agriculture but due to adverse circumstances arising out of partition, one forced to take to other occupations. Test relief works and normal P. W. D. works gave employment to a large section of these people. Other avenues of employment are collection and carriage of limestone, 441 woodcutting, and carrying of merchandise, etc. Traders in stationery 433 articles and groceries who formed the bulk of the traders in the border area are largely the displaced persons and the Bengali people concentrated 563 in Bholaganj and Balat. Others are petty traders dealing in fruits, vegetables, fish, clothes and other foodstuff. Under small-scale manufacture, etc., come the liquor distillers, blacksmiths, carpenters, etc., Commission agents, fishermen, hunters, etc., are shown as others.

5.10 In the following table the families in the three village groups are classified according to their subsidiary occupation.

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In the border areas 25 p.c. of the predominantly agricultural families had some subsidiary occupation, the most important of which was non-agricultural labour followed as trade. Majority of (64 per cent) of the predominantly non-agricultural families has some subsidiary occupation, the most important of which is agriculture accounting for 88 per cent of such families.

The picture for the project area is more or less the same except that among agricultural families a relatively higher proportion of families have small scale manufacture as subsidiary occupation while trading is relatively less popular.

In the general area among the agricultural families with some subsidiary occupation the majority are engaged in small scale manufacture as subsidiary occupation, labour occupying a minor place. Almost all the predominantly non-agricultural families have agriculture as subsidiary occupation.

5.11 The following table shows the distribution of employed persons according to major industry groups (according to principal occupation).

TABLE C-12

Distribution of employed persons by Industries

Name of industry	No. of persons		
	Border area	Project area	General area
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1. Agriculture	1441 (71·94)	1225 (77·93)	498 (88·45
2. Livestock	16 (0·80)	28 (1·78)	33 (5·86)
3. Forestry, fishery, etc.	12 (0·60)	4 (0·25)	9 (1·60)
4. Mining & quarrying	111 (5·54)	9 (0·57)	..
5. Manufacture	74 (3·69)	36 (2·28)	11 (1·95)
6. Construction	170 (8·49)	170 (10·82)	3 (0·53)
7. Trade & commerce	117 (5·84)	33 (2·11)	5 (0·89)
8. Transport	33 (1·65)	6 (0·38)	..
9. Service & profession	29 (1·45)	61 (3·88)	4 (0·72)
Total	2003	1572	563

TABLE D3

Number of families of different occupational type holding land of various sizes

Size of holding (acre)	No. of families				
	wholly agricultural	Agriculture as principal occupation	Agriculture as subsidiary occupation	Independent of agriculture	All occupations
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
1. BORDER AREA					
1. No land ..	108 (21·14)	29 (17·26)	61 (33·33)	111 (77·08)	309 (30·72)
2. Less than 1 acre ..	51 (9·98)	11 (6·56)	19 (10·39)	1 (0·69)	82 (8·13)
3. 1 to less than 3 acres	88 (17·22)	30 (17·86)	37 (30·22)	18 (12·51)	173 (17·20)
4. 3 to less than 10 acre	144 (28·18)	57 (33,92)	48 (26.23)	11 (7·64)	260 (25·85)
5. 10 and above ..	120 (23·47)	41 (24·40)	18 (9·83)	3 (1·08)	182 (18·10)
Total	511 (100·00)	168 (100·00)	183 (100·00)	144 (100·00)	1006) (100·00
2. (Project area)					
2. No land	115 (29·19)	9 (9·47)	15 (13·89)	46 (92·00	185 (28·59)
2. Less than 1 acre.. ..	40 (10·15)	8 (8·43)	11 (10·18)	..	59 (9·12)
3. 1 to less than 3 acres	111 (28·17)	32 (33·68)	44 (40·74)	3 (6·00)	190 (29·33)
4. 3 to less than 10 acres	113 (28·68)	29 (30·53)	26 (24.07)	1 (2·00)	169 (26·12)
5. 10 acres and above..	15 (3·81)	17 (18·09)	12 (11·14)	..	44 (6·81)
Total ..	394 (100.00)	95 (100·00)	108 (100·00)	50 (100·00)	647 (100·00)

TABLE E-2

Debts by principal occupation

Principal occupation	Total No. of families	No. of indebted families	Amount of loan outstanding (Rs.)	Average amount outstanding per household (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A. Border area :—				
1. Agriculture ...	697	458	90,516	197·63
2. Labour ...	188	103	16,745	162·57
3. Service, Profession, etc. ..	84	19	28,310	1490·00
4. Trade ..	65	29	16,188	558·20
5. Small scale manufacture and handicraft ..	23	13	4,910	377·69
6. Poultry and diary, farming, etc. ..	7	3	1,200	400·00
7. Others ..	10	5	420	84·00
Total : ..	1,006	630	1,58,289	251·25
B. Project area—				
1. Agriculture ..	489	249	69,595	279·50
2. Labour ..	70	33	2,740	80·30
3. Service profession, etc.	39	17	5,755	338·53
4. Trade ..	21	8	2,035	254·38
5. Small scale manufacture and handicraft.	19	11	8,275	752·27
6. Poultry and diary farming, etc. ..	..	..	..	..
7. Others .	9	4	1,110	277·50
Total : ..	647	322	89,510	277·98

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Principal occupation	Total No. of families	No of indebted families	Amount of loan outstanding (Rs.)	Average Amount outstanding per household (Rs.)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
C. General area :—				
1. Agriculture ..	165	51	9,264	181·65
2. Labour ...	6	1	100	100·00
3. Service profession, etc.	3	..	..	..
4. Trade ..	4	..	..	..
5. Small scale manufacture and handicraft.	1	..	..	..
6. Poultry and diary farming, etc. ..	5	..	..	..
7. Others ..	...	...	..	...
Total: ..	184	52	9,364	180·08

From the above table it will be seen that predominantly agricultural families constitute the highest proportion of the indebted class in all the three areas. In Border area they constitute 73 per cent of the total number of indebted families, accounting for 57 per cent of the total amount of loan. In Project area and General area these proportions were respectively 77 per cent, 98 per cent and 99 per cent. It is clear that in Border area, average amount of loan per family is higher of the non-agricultural class which ranges from Rs. 377·69 nP to Rs. 1,490·00 nP. These averages, as a matter of fact were inflated due to inclusion of a few families in each class who have very high amount of outstanding loan ranging from Rs. 600 to Rs. 10,000 per family. Otherwise indebtedness in agricultural and non-agricultural class did not visualise any wide difference. In Project area indebtedness among agricultural families is definitely higher than that among their counterparts in Border area and they accounted for a fair proportion (78 per cent) of the total amount of loan. Different occupational groups in non-agricultural class, of course, revealed among themselves wide variation in average per family indebteness ranging from Rs. 80 to Rs. 752 per family. On the other hand, in General area, agricultural families account for almost the entire amount of loan.

Per family indebtedness taking all the families into consideration stands at, for Border area Rs. 157·34, for Project area Rs. 138·35 and for General area Rs. 50·89.

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CHAPTER IX

Income and Expenditure

434 592 9·1 The great majority of rural people are members of families of two or more persons sharing a common income earned mostly by joint efforts of family members an also disbursed in supplying the consumption needs of the family as a whole. An attempt is made below, therefore, to analyse the aspects of income and expenditure of the rural families family-wise.

434 463 592 9.2 It has already been mentioned that the majority (*i.e.*, above 75 per cent) of the families of all the three areas pursued agriculture as a principal occupation. Some of these families follow cottage industries, trade, transport, labour, etc. as subsidiary occupations. The rest of the families had either agriculture as subsidiary occupation or were independent of agriculture. The larger section of these families were non-agricultural labourers. The following table gives the distribution of families in different income groups.

TABLE G-1

Frequency distribution of families in different income groups

Income Group Rs.	No. of families: Border area — Mainly agricultural	Border area — Non-agricultural	Border area — Total	Average annual gross income per family (Rs.0.00)	Project area — Mainly agricultural	Project area — Non-agricultural	Project area — Total	Average annual gross income per family (Rs.0.00)	General area — Mainly agricultural	General area — Non-agricultural	General area — Total	Average annual income per family (Rs. 0.00)
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
1. Below 100 ..	..	1 (.31)	1 (.10)	60.00 ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
2. 100 to below 250	6 (.88)	17 (5.20)	23 (2.29)	208.96	7 (1.43)	6 (3.80)	13 (2.01)	193.00	1 (.61)	..	1 (.54)	128.00 ..
3. 250 to below 500	130 (17.67)	73 (22.32)	193 (19.18)	398.75	62 (12.68)	9 (5.71)	71 (10.97)	392.34	18 (10.90)	4 (21.05)	22 (11.96)	363.27
4. 500 to below 750	207 (30.49)	80 (24.46)	287 (28.53)	709.54	108 (22.09)	31 (19.62)	139 (21.48)	633.68	56 (33.94)	4 (21.05)	60 (32.61)	530.25
5. 750 to below 1000	131 (19.29)	48 (14.68)	179 (17.79)	829.89	115 (23.52)	22 (13.92)	137 (21.17)	867.55	38 (23.03)	6 (31.58)	44 (23.92)	903.48
6. 1000 to below 1500	129 (19.00)	39 (11.93)	168 (16.70)	1,168.68	122 (24.95)	38 (24.05)	160 (24.73)	1189.24	41 (24.85)	3 (15.79)	44 (23.92)	1210.64
7. 1500 to below 2000	34 (5.01)	21 (6.42)	55 (5.47)	1,687.05	40 (8.18)	11 (6.96)	51 (7.88)	1660.73	10 (6.06)	2 (10.53)	12 (6.51)	1694.50

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TABLE C·9

Classification of Predominantly Agricultural Families

Type	Border area			Project area			General area		
	No. of families			No. of families			No. of families		
	Shillong Sub-division	Jowai Sub-division	Total	Shillong Sub-division	Jowai Sub-division	Total	Shillong Sub-division	Jowai Sub-division	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
1. Non-cultivating owner..	25 (5·57)	6 (2·61)	31 (4·57)	.. ..	4 (1·23)	4 (0·82)	.. ..	.. ..	.. ..
2. Owner cultivator (owning 75 per cent or more of farm land).	375 (83·52)	98 (42·61)	473 (69·66)	128 (77·58)	175 (54·01)	303 (61·96)	70 (85·37)	64 (77·11)	134 (81·21)
3. Tenant (owning less than 25 per cent of farm land).	8 (1·78)	73 (31·74)	81 (11·93)	14 (8·48)	51 (15·74)	65 (13·29)	3 (3·66)	7 (8·43)	10 (6·06)
4. Part owner and part tenant (owning between 25 per cent and 75 per cent of farm land.	7 (1·56)	19 (8·26)	26 (3·83)	15 (9·09)	21 (6·48)	36 (7·37)	5 (6·10)	5 (6·03)	10 (6·06)
5. Landless agricultural labourer. ..	34 (7·47)	34 (14·78)	68 (10·01)	8 (4·85)	73 (22·53)	81 (16·56)	4 (4·87)	7 (8·43)	11 (6·67)
Total ...	449 (100·00)	230 (100·00)	679 (100·00)	165 (100·00)	324 (100·00)	489 (100·00)	82 (100·00)	83 (100·00)	165 (100·00)

TABLE C-II

Predominantly agricultural families and Predominantly non-agricultural families classified according to their subsidiary occupation

Subsidiary occupation	No. of families								
	Border area			Project area			General area		
	Predominantly Agricultural	Predominantly Non-Agricultural	Total	Predominantly Agricultural	Predominantly Non-Agricultural	Total	Predominantly Agricultural	Predominantly Non-Agricultural	Total
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1. Agriculture	—	183 (87·56)	183 (48·54)	...	108 (93·10)	108 (51·18)	..	17 (94.44)	17 (30·90)
2. Labour	117 (69·64)	6 (3·87)	123 (32·63)	37 (38·95)	3 (2·59)	40 (18·96	7 (18·92)	1 (5·66)	8 (14·55)

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(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)
3. Service, profession, etc. ...	17 (10·12)	3 (1·44)	20 (5·31)	7 (7·37)	2 (1·72) 1·12	9 (4·27)	1 (2·70)	..	(1·82)
4. Trader	23 (13·69)	4 (2·87) 2·87	29 (7·69)	11 (11·58)	2 (1·72)	13 (6·16)	4 (10·81)	..	4 (7·27)
5. Small scale manufacture ..	7 (4·17)	6 (2·87)	13 (3·45)	27 (28·42)	1 (0·87)	28 (13·27)	21 (56·75)	..	21 (38·18)
6. Poultry & dairy farming ..	2 (1·19)	2 (0·96)	4 (1·06)	3 (3·16)	..	3 (1·42)	2 (5·11)	..	2 (5·64) 2 7
7. Others	2 (1·19)	3 (1·44)	5 (1·32)	10 (10·52)	..	10 (4·74)	2 (5·41)	..	2 (3·64)
Total number of families having some subsidiary occupation	168 (100·00)	209 (100·00)	377 (100·00)	95 (100·00)	116 (100·00)	211 (100·00)	37 (100·00)	18 (100·00)	55 (100·00)
Total number of all families ..	679	327	1006	489	158	647	165	19	18 4
Percentage of families having sub-sidiary occupation to total No. of families	24·74	63·09	37·48	39·43	73·42	32·61	22·42	94·74	29·89

TABLE C-5—contd.

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)
9. 2000 to below 2500	19 (1.98)	16 (3.05)	21 (2.89)	81,50,000	12 (2.42)	30 (4.96)	39 (5.41)	5,10,000	-- --			
9. 2500 to below 3000	11 (1.42)	19 (3.97)	24 (3.33)	2,87,500	10 (2.02)	6 (1.00)	29 (3.98)	8,000	1 (.41)	-- --	1 (.34)	8000
10. 3000 to below 3500	7 (1.05)	3 (.68)	10 (.99)	3,27,500	6 (.92)	6 (1.00)	11 (1.54)	3,50,000	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --
11. 3500 to below 4000	6 (.89)	3 (1.58)	11 (1.09)	3,50,000	1 (.20)	1 (.16)	8 (1.1)	3,000	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --
12. 4000 & above	11 (2.21)	17 (3.50)	17 (3.16)	5,75,000	9 (1.82)	33 (10.3)	51 (7.10)	6,170	-- --	-- --	-- --	-- --
Total ..	679 (100.00)	477 (100.00)	1005 (100.00)	10,00,000	495 (100.00)	149 (100.00)	649 (100.00)	1,000	33 (100.00)	13 (100.00)	34 (100.00)	8000

19: Assam G-S (1958) 1963 AR7 Khasi AR7

From table above, it is difficult to judge the relative prosperity of agricultural and non-agricultural families. The annual gross income of 49 per cent of the agricultural families is less than Rs.750·00 a year while that of 87 per cent of them is below Rs.1,500 a year. Thus the remaining 13 per cent of the families only have a gross annual income of above Rs.1,500 a year. Among non-agricultural families the corresponding proportions are 52 per cent, 79 per cent and 21 per cent. Thus proportion of non-agricultural families with annual gross income less than Rs.750, is greater than the corresponding proportion of agricultural families. The petty traders, porters and other non-agricultural labourers who are necessarily very poor constitute this non-agricultural class. On the other hand proportion of non-agricultural families with annuae gross income of more than Rs.750 exceeds the corresponding proportion for agricultural families. These non-agricultural families comprise of a good number of business men, contractors, etc., who are comparatively a bit well off than the agriculturists.

In Project area proportion of agricultural families and non-agricultural families with annual gross income of less than Rs.750 is 36 per cent and 29 per cent respectively as against 49 per cent and 52 per cent of their respective counterpart in Border area. Proportions of families with gross income below Rs.1,500 a year is 84 per cent and 66 per cent indicating that proportions of agricultural as well as non-agricultural families with income above Rs.1,500 a year are greater than their corresponding counterparts in Border area.

In general area villages it is significant to note that proportion of agricultural families with gross annual income of over Rs.2,000 is negligible (·61 per cent) while those under Rs.750 and Rs.1,500 are 45 per cent and 93 per cent respectively.

Table below further reveals that 58 per cent of the gross income in the Border area, 54 per cent in the Project area and 86 per cent in the General area is earned by families in the income group less Rs.1,500 constituting as much as 85 per cent of the total number of families in the respective areas.

TABLE G-2

Percentage distribution of income and families in different income groups

Annual income group (Rs.)	Border area		Project area		General area	
	Families	Income earned	Families	Income earned	Families	Income earned
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)
1. Less than 1500	84·5	58·4	80·3	53·8	93.00	85·5
2. 1500 to less than 3000	10.3	19.2	14.1	22.6	7.0	14·5
3. 3000 to less than 4000	2.1	6.7	1.9	5.0	..	..
4. 4000 and above	3.2	15.7	3.7	18.6	..	..
Total ..	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

CHAPTER—X

Summary of main findings

125 10.1. Twenty-eight villages were selected for the purpose of the survey. Out of the 28 villages selected, 10 from Border area and 8 from Project area were selected purposively while the remaining 10 were selected at random from the entire district which is referred hereafter as general area.

166 Migration from big villages was rare but some migration was reported in respect of small villages.

164 243 871 489 482 Occurrence of Malaria, influenza and dysentery is a regular phenomenon in the area. Medical facilities were not found satisfactory and as much as 78 per cent of the villages have no dispensary within a radius of five miles. In regard to education, the facilities cannot also be said to be unsatisfactory for more than 60 per cent of the villages have a Lower Primary School. Transport facilities were not satisfactory and as much as 86 per cent of the villages still depend upon primitive mode of transport, namely head load. Correlated with out-moded form of transport, is the prevalence of unduly high cost of transport.

*162 161 10.2. The number of the families covered by the survey was 1006 in the Border area, and 647 in the Project area and 184 in the General area. The average size of a village in the respective area is 100·6, 80·9 and 18·4 families. In the Border and Project areas females out number males being respectively 1076 and 1092 females per 1,000 males as against 940 females per 1,000 males in the general area 212 Literacy is as high as 34 per cent in the border area and 31 per cen [562] in the Project area but as low as 17 per cent in the general area In all the areas literacy among females is very low.

*162 464 The working population (earners and earning dependents) is as high as 55 per cent in the Border area, 54 per cent in the Project area and 63 per cent in the general area. While there were no cases of unemployment in the Project and General areas, 53 persons were reported unemployed from border area.

241 *162 • 463 10.3. 51 per cent of the families in Border area are wholly agricultural, 35 per cent partly agricultural and 14 per cent independent o agriculture. The corresponding figures for the Project area are 61, 31 and 8 per cent respectively while for the General area they are 70 per cent, 29 per cent, 1 per cent respectively.

Predominantly agricultural families constitute 67, 76 and 90 per cent of the families in Border, Project and General areas respectively.

*162 423 10.4. 31 per cent of the families in Border area, 29 per cent in Project area and 10 per cent in General area were absolutely without any land while 25 per cent, 39 per cent and 24 per cent of the families in the respective areas possessed small holding ranging from 0·24 to 2·30 acres representing 11,24 and 26 per cent of the total holding area in the respective areas. 36 per cent of the families in Border and Project areas and 41 in General area possessed medium sized holding (3 to less than 10 acres)

TABLE C—1·11

Distribution of the families by Principal and Subsidiary occupation

Subsidiary occupation	Principal occupation: Agriculture	Labour	Service & profession	Trade	Small scale manufacture & handicrafts.	Poultry Diary & farming, etc.	Others	Total
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
A. Border area :								
1. No Subsidiary Occupation.	511 (75·26)	62 (32·98)	12 (35·29)	25 (38·46)	6 (26·09)	4 (57·14)	9 (90·00)	629 (62·52)
2. Agriculture	—	119 (63·30)	17 (50·00)	30 (46·15)	14 (60·87)	2 (28·57)	1 (10·00)	183 (18·19)
3. Labour	117 (17·24)	..	...	3 (4·62)	3 (13·04)	..	..	123 (12·23)
4. Service, profession etc.	17 (2·50)	...	..	2 (3·08)	..	1 (14·29)	..	20 (1·99)
5. Trade	23 (3·39)	1 (0·53)	3 (8·83)	2 (3·08)	—	..	..	29 (2·88)
6. Cottage Industry	7 (1·03)	5 (2·66)	1 (2·24)	..	..	..	..	13 (1·29)
7. Poultry, diary farming, etc.	2 (0·29)	...	1 (2·94)	1 (1·53)	..	..	—	4 (0·40)
8. Others	2 (0·29)	1 (0·53)	..	2 (3·08)	..	..	..	5 (0·50)
Total border area	679 (100·00)	188 (100·00)	34 (100·00)	65 (100·00)	23 (100·00)	7 (100·00)	10 (100·00)	1006 (100·00)
P. C. Total	(67·50)	(18·69)	(3·38)	(6·46)	(2·29)	(0·69)	(0·99)	(100·00)

TABLE C–11·1–(contd.)

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
B. Project area :								
1. No Subsidiary occupation	394 (80·57)	22 (31·43)	9 (23·08)	..	5 (26·32)	..	6 (66·67)	436 (67·39)
2. Agriculture	..	47 (67·14)	26 (66·67)	20 (95·24)	12 (63·16)	..	3 (33·33)	108 (16·69)
3. Labour	37 (7·51)	1 (1·43)	2 (5·13)	..	..	..	..	40 (6·18)
4. Service and profession, etc	7 (7·67)	.. (1·43)	1 (2·56)	...	1 (5·26)	..	..	9 (1·39)
5. Trade	11 (2·25)	..	1 (2·56)	..	1 (5·26)	..	..	13 (2·01)
6. Cottage Industry	27 (5.52)	...	..	1 (4·76)	..	..	..	28 (4·33)
7. Poultry, diary farming, etc.	3 (0·62)	..	...	..	..	...	..	3 (0·46)
8. Others	10 (0·62)	..	..	..	..	..	..	10 (1·56)
Total project area	489 (100·00)	70 (100·00)	39 (100·00)	21 (100·00)	19 (100·00)	..	9 (100·00)	647 (100·00)
P. C. to total :	(75·58	(10·81)	(6·03)	(3·25)	(2·94)	..	(1·39)	(100·00)

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TABLE C—11·1

(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)
C. General area :								
1. No of subsidiary occupation.	128 (77·58)	...	1 (33·33)	..	...	...	...	129 (70·11)
2. Agriculture	..	6 (100·00)	2 (66·67)	3 (75·00)	1 (100·00)	5 (100·00)	..	17 (9·24)
3. Labour	7 (4·24)	..	..	1 (25·00)	..	..	..	8 (4·35)
4. Service and profession	1 (0·61)	..	..	...	..	..	..	1 (0·54)
5. Trade	4 (2·43)	..	..	...	..	...	..	4 (2·17)
6. Cottage Industry	21 (12·72)	..	..	..	...	..	..	21 (11·41)
7, Poultry, diary farming, etc.	2 (1·21)	..	..	..	..	..	..	2 (1·09)
8. Others	2 (1·21)	..	...	..	..	..	..	2 (1·09)
Total general area	165 (100·00)	6 (100·00)	3 (100·00)	4 (100·00)	1 (100·00)	5 (100·00)	..	184 (100·00)
P C. to total	(89·68)	(3·26)	(1·63)	(2·17)	(0·54)	(2·72)	..	(100·00)

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR7 Khasi AR7

361 In the interior of the Hills the largest villages are mere clusters of
463 huts. The great majority of the inhabitants are employed in agriculture, but there are no data upon which a proportion of agriculturists to non-agriculturists could be based.

167 There is no immigration into the District. Both the Khásiás and
178 the Syntengs have been successful in preserving to the present day their primitive isolation, free from the interference of Hinduism. They still maintain their aboriginal forms of belief and re-
[771] ligious worship, and repudiate alike the authority of Bráhmans and
[262] the entire system of caste. To some extent, however, they have given way to Hindu prejudices in the matter of purity of food. The
[563] few Hindus to be found in the Hills are temporary residents, engaged in civil and military employ, who always contemplate returning
[441] to their own homes. The traders are for the most part natives of the Hills; for the Márwárí merchants, who penetrate into every other corner of Assam, have been able to obtain no footing in the face of Khásí competition. There is likewise no emigration from the District. The hillmen are a well-to-do and contented race, and either produce themselves or obtain by trade sufficient to satisfy
[166] their scanty wants. A certain number of both Khásiás and Syntengs proceed southwards every year to work on the tea gardens of Cáchár and Sylhet, but such absence from home is only temporary.

243 AGRICULTURE: RICE.—Thirteen different varieties of rice are cultivated in the District, of which the following is a list, giving the Khásí name as well as the description of the grain:—(1) *U-kyba-khynriam* (*u*, the masculine article, meaning 'the,' and *kyba*, noun masculine, meaning 'paddy'), brown rice with long grain; (2) *u-kyba-khynriam bai-lih*, a white rice with long grain; (3) *u-kyba la-toh*, round-grained rice; (4) *u-kyba ksai*, bearded, husked; (5) *u-kyba-dew-ba-iong*, black husked rice (literally *u* = 'the,' *kyba* = 'paddy,' *dew* = 'earth,' *ba* = 'that,' *iong* = 'black'); (6) *u-kyba-ba-lih*, white rice; (7) *u-kyba-seim*, scented rice (literally *u* = 'the,' *kyba* = 'paddy,' *seim* = 'royal'); (8) *u-kyba la-kroh*, large-grained rice; (9) *u-kyba-ba-tlang*, small-grained rice; (10) *u-kyba sa-bia*, early rice; (11) *u-kyba ra-bon*, late rice; (12) *u-kyba tang-la*, rice grown along with beans; (13) *u-kyba-ba-túk*, small rice.

Rice is cultivated in marshy fields situated near running water as well as in high lands. The first seven of the above thirteen species of rice are sown in marshy lands during the months of April and May,

20: Hunter G-4 (no date) 1897 AR7 Khasi AR7

with the exception of the
326 manufacture of iron, in which the master blacksmith often employs
462 hired labourers, the other industries are generally followed by
463 females in their own houses. No class of labourers are hereditarily
452 attached to any manufacture in a manner that affects their personal
434 freedom. The system of advancing money for manufacturing purposes does not obtain in the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills. The total value of the manufactures of the District is stated to be between £2000 and £3000 per annum. No local manufactures are carried on by means of imported capital.

439 COMMERCE AND TRADE.—The external commerce of the Khásí and Jáintiá Hills is chiefly conducted on the southern boundary, through the District of Sylhet. The total value is more considerable than might be expected, owing to the fact that these Hills practically possess the monopoly of supplying Bengal with lime, potatoes, and oranges. Other important articles of export are raw cotton, stick-lac, betel-nut and *pán* leaves, and bay leaves or *tezpát*. The exportation of iron, which was once large, has now almost ceased. The chief imports consist of rice, dried fish, cotton cloth, salt, and tobacco. On the whole, it would appear that the course of trade is about equally balanced. Trade statistics of more or less value are in existence. The earliest of such statistics are to be found in the Report of Mr. W. J. Allen, dated 1858. The information there given was based for the most part upon oral statements furnished by numerous native traders to Mr. Hudson, who then filled the office of Principal Assistant-Commissioner. It may be accepted as 'a fair representation of the state of trade in
439 the Hills' at that time. The imports and exports on the Assam
434 side were each estimated at about Rs. 15,000, or £1500. The trade with the markets in the Surmá valley was much larger. The total of the exports was valued at Rs. 700,000, or £70,000, giving a profit to the traders of Rs. 170,705, or £17,070. The chief items were:—Limestone, 1,700,000 *maunds*, valued at Rs. 306,000; potatoes, 50,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 125,000; oranges, 45,000,000 in number, value Rs. 78,750; smelted iron, 45,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 67,500; cotton, 12,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 42,000; betel-nuts, value Rs. 37,500; coal, 25,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 12,500. The total value of the imports was estimated at Rs. 350,000, or £35,000, being just one-half the value of the exports; the estimated profits are given as Rs. 44,325, or £4432. The chief items were:—Rice, 150,000 *maunds*, value Rs. 225,000; cloth of sorts, Rs. 25,000;